UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/COM.1/1
30 September 1996

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services,
and Commodities
First Session
Geneva, 6 November 1996 (Part I)
19 February 1997 (Part II)
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Enabling countries to respond to the opportunities arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements so as to derive maximum available benefit by: analysing the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on development and enhancing capacities for participation in the multilateral trading system

4. Integrating trade, environment and development: recent progress and outstanding issues

5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission and any necessary preparation through expert meetings

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Election of officers

Rule 18 of the relevant rules of procedure, i.e. the rules of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, states that: "At the commencement of the first meeting of each regular session, the Committee shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee. In electing the officers, due account shall be taken of the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution". Moreover, rule 19 indicates that "Without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution as laid down in rule 18, the bureau of the Committee shall consist of seven members, including four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended."

The Commission may therefore wish to elect its Bureau in accordance with the above rules.

Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the first session of the Commission, as reproduced in section I above, was approved by the Trade and Development Board at its thirteenth executive session, on 8 July 1996. In accordance with the understanding reached, the first session of the Commission would take place in two parts. The first part, to be held from 6 to 8 November 1996 (2 ½ days), would focus on agenda item 3; and the second (resumed session) to be held from 19 to 21 February 1997 (2 ½ days) would focus on agenda item 4.

It was also agreed that the documentation to be prepared on item 4 would be made available to the first part of the first session on the understanding that it would not be subject to discussion or comments during the first part of the session, but would rather serve for national preparations for the second part of the session.

Item 3 Enabling countries to respond to the opportunities arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements so as to derive maximum available benefit by: analysing the impact to the Uruguay Round Agreements on development and enhancing capacities for participation in the multilateral trading system

This item would permit an examination of the current trading opportunities and challenges facing developing countries and the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on their development. Trading opportunities of developing countries in goods and services and their integration into the world economy will also be influenced to an important extent by the ability of these countries to participate more fully in the multilateral trading system. This issue will focus on enhancing national capacities in terms of human resources and administrative infrastructures, to enable countries to adjust effectively to meet their obligations and to take advantage of their rights under the multilateral trading system, as well as with the assistance provided to countries in the process of accession to WTO. The secretariat report to this session should include possible ways of strengthening capacities for participating in the multilateral trading system.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/2 and Add.1	Report by the UNCTAD secretariat Statistical tables.

Item 4 Integrating trade, environment and development: recent progress and outstanding issues

Consistent with the UNCTAD IX mandate, the Commission should analyse the situation four years after the Rio Conference, particularly with regard to the issues identified in paragraph 91 (iv) of the UNCTAD IX document.*

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/3 Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 5 Provisional agenda for the second session for the Commission and any necessary preparation through expert meetings

Paragraph 107 of the Midrand final document states that the Commissions "... will meet once a year unless otherwise decided by the Board. Sessions of the Commissions should be as short as possible and not exceed five days." A draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission will be submitted for consideration at the second part of the first session.

Item 6 Other business

Item 7 Adoption of the report of the Commission

The report of the Commission will be considered by the Trade and Development Board.

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* Final document adopted by the Conference at Midrand in May 1996, entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/377).